THE ROAD TO CIVIL WAR™

MARVEL®
531.com

Straczynski
Kirkham
Regla

THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN®

WWW.MARVEL.COM

(c) 2009 Marvel Characters, Inc. All rights reserved.

Mr. Parker Goes to Washington

PART THREE OF THREE

SO, IS THIS RIDE COVERED BY THE PRICE OF ADMISSION OR SEPARATE? BECAUSE THIS IS *FUN*, AND--

OH, COOL... I CAN SEE THOMAS JEFFERSON'S HOUSE FROM HERE.

INSECT.

ACTUALLY, SPIDERS AREN'T INSECTS, THEY'RE ARACHNIDS, BUT *LOTS* OF PEOPLE MAKE THAT MISTAKE, SO YOU SHOULDN'T FEEL BAD ABOUT *THAT*.

BUT I'M SORRY, THE WHOLE BORIS BADENOV ACCENT IS JUST TOO MUCH.

COME ON... SAY "*MOOSE AND SQUIRREL.*" JUST ONCE. YOU *KNOW* YOU WANT TO.

NO? THEN MAYBE YOU CAN TELL ME WHY YOU TRIED TO KILL MR. STARK--

--AFTER YOU WAKE UP, NATCH.

URRRGGHH!

FWOOSH!

Oh, crud--

--if I've damaged the Lincoln Memorial, this is *SO* coming out of my allowance.

For the next ten thousand years.

Okay, I saw him do a belly flop at the entrance...but where is he? I--

Wow...I never...

Wow.

(c) 2009 Marvel Characters, Inc. All rights reserved.

The Amazing Spider-Man (ISSN #0274-5232) No. 531, June, 2006. Published Monthly except semi-monthly in January, March, May and June by MARVEL PUBLISHING, INC., a subsidiary of MARVEL ENTERTAINMENT, INC. OFFICE OF PUBLICATION: 417 5th Avenue, New York, NY 10016. PERIODICALS POSTAGE PAID AT NEW YORK, NY AND AT ADDITIONAL MAILING OFFICES. © 2006 Marvel Characters, Inc. All rights reserved. All characters featured in this issue and the distinctive names and likenesses thereof, and all related indicia are trademarks of Marvel Characters, Inc. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons, and/or institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental. $2.99 per copy in the U.S. and $4.25 in Canada (GST #R127032852) in the direct market and $2.99 per copy in the U.S. and $4.25 in Canada (GST #R127032852) through the newsstand; Canadian Agreement #40668537. **Printed in the USA.** Subscription rate (U.S. dollars) for 12 issues: U.S. $27.00; Canada $37.00; Foreign $39.00. POSTMASTER: SEND ALL ADDRESS CHANGES TO Amazing Spider-Man, C/O MARVEL SUBSCRIPTION DEPT. P.O. BOX 30520 SALT LAKE CITY, UT 84130-0520. TELEPHONE # (800) 217-9158. FAX # (801) 208-0877. subscriptions@marvelsubs.com. AVI ARAD, Chief Creative Officer; ALAN FINE, President & CEO Of Marvel Toys and Marvel Publishing, Inc.; DAVID BOGART, VP Of Publishing Operations; DAN CARR, Executive Director of Publishing Technology; JUSTIN F. GABRIE, Managing Editor; STAN LEE, Chairman Emeritus. For information regarding advertising in Marvel Comics or on Marvel.com, please contact Joe Maimone, Advertising Director, at jmaimone@marvel.com or 212-576-8534. For Marvel subscription inquiries, please call 800-217-9158.

FOURSCORE AND SEVEN YEARS AGO OUR FATHERS BROUGHT FORTH ON THIS CONTINENT A NEW NATION, CONCEIVED IN LIBERTY, AND DEDICATED TO THE PROPOSITION THAT ALL MEN ARE CREATED EQUAL.

NOW WE ARE ENGAGED IN A GREAT CIVIL WAR, TESTING WHETHER THAT NATION, OR ANY NATION SO CONCEIVED AND SO DEDICATED, CAN LONG ENDURE. WE ARE MET ON A GREAT BATTLEFIELD OF THAT WAR.

You gotta give it to him...the man could write, he--

--uh-oh--

UHHHNG!

NOW IT IS I WHO HAVE YOU!

AND NOW... DIE!

WHOOSH

IT'S THE AMAZING GLIDING SPIDER-MAN, NEW FROM TOYCO, ONLY $14.95. SHIPPING MAY NOT BE INCLUDED--

AND NOW TO FINISH THE ASSIGNMENT--

CAST YOUR EYES SKYWARD, BUB.

--BUT *HANDLING* WE'VE GOT DOWN TO A FINE ART.

URRRK!

KRASH!

AMERIKANSKI HUMOR.

MOST FUNNY.

WE KILL NOW.

URCCCHH--

Damn...he's faster than he looks. Granted, that isn't saying much, but still--

IT IS RIGHT THAT YOU SHOULD DIE NOW, FOR YOU ARE SOON TO BE AN EXTINCT BREED, LEAVING YOUR COUNTRY DEFENSELESS.

MY EMPLOYER BELIEVES THAT WHEN TONY STARK IS DEAD, THERE WILL BE NO ONE TO SPEAK FOR YOUR KIND...AND YOUR OWN GOVERNMENT WILL HUNT YOU DOWN AND ERADICATE YOU. WHICH IS ONLY FITTING.

90%

SINCE THE FALL OF THE SOVIET UNION, I AND OTHERS HAVE BEEN FORCED TO SURVIVE ON OUR OWN, WITHOUT SUPPORT, AS MERCENARIES, TAKING WHATEVER JOB CAME ALONG. IT HAS BEEN HARD.

BUT WHEN MY PEOPLE WERE CONTACTED IN SECRET FOR THIS JOB, I KNEW THAT IT WOULD BE A PLEASURE.

I...I JUST--

I HAD ONLY TO WAIT FOR HIS ARRIVAL, AND THEN --

--WANT--

WHAT?

JUST... WANTED... TO SAY...

KLANNNNG!

...SURPRISE!

AAARRGGHHH!

Good...damaged the sensors in his helmet... he's swinging wild.

He may have backups, however...got to hit him hard before he can get them online.

KER-WHAMM!

BAMMMMM!

I feel the armor start to give, and I know... I've got him...I've got him...I've--

ENOUGH!

No! He's making a run for it.

Just one chance...try to snare him again--

--nuts!

See, I *TOLD* Tony I needed rocket boots, I--

This is your chance to look good in D.C., Peter. Don't mess it up.

Think up something catchy, something historic...

AND DON'T COME BACK!

WE APPRECIATE YOUR RETURN VISIT AFTER YESTERDAY'S RATHER DISTURBING EVENTS, MR. STARK.

THANK YOU, SENATOR DICKERSON. HAD IT NOT BEEN FOR THE INTERCESSION OF SPIDER-MAN, I MIGHT NOT BE SITTING HERE RIGHT NOW.

YES, BUT NOT IN THE WAY YOU THINK.

DEMONSTRATING, YOU BELIEVE, THE VALUE IN UNENCUMBERED SUPERHUMANS?

THE ATTACK AGAINST ME YESTERDAY WAS NEITHER RANDOM NOR ILL-CONSIDERED. IT WAS A DELIBERATE ATTEMPT TO INTERFERE IN THE DELIBERATIONS OF THIS COMMITTEE, AND THE OUTCOME OF THE PROPOSED SUPERHUMAN REGISTRATION ACT.

I SUBMIT THIS RECORDING, MADE DURING THE BATTLE YESTERDAY, AS EXHIBIT ONE.

IT IS RIGHT THAT YOU SHOULD DIE NOW, FOR YOU ARE SOON TO BE AN EXTINCT BREED, LEAVING YOUR COUNTRY **DEFENSELESS.**

THIS COMMITTEE MUST BEAR IN MIND THAT AMERICA'S ENEMIES ARE NOT BOUND BY ANY RULES MADE HERE. THEY WILL ATTEMPT TO EXPLOIT THOSE RULES, HOWEVER WELL-INTENDED, FOR THEIR OWN DARK PURPOSES.

THE ATTACK ON ME YESTERDAY WAS ONLY THE FIRST VOLLEY IN THAT PROGRAM.

MY EMPLOYER BELIEVES THAT WHEN TONY STARK IS DEAD, THERE WILL BE NO ONE TO SPEAK FOR YOUR KIND...

...AND YOUR OWN GOVERNMENT WILL HUNT YOU DOWN AND ERADICATE YOU.

GENTLEMEN, I CAN GIVE YOU ALL THE TECHNICAL, LEGAL-SPEAK REASONS WHY THIS ACT IS A DANGEROUS STEP. BUT THE BIGGEST REASON IS ALWAYS THE SIMPLEST.

IF IT GOES WRONG, AS THESE THINGS TEND TO... IT COULD LEAD TO A KIND OF UNILATERAL DISARMAMENT OF OUR SUPER-POWERED CITIZENS.

WHICH IS *EXACTLY* WHAT OUR ENEMIES WANT.

PUBLIC OPINION IS, AT THE MOMENT, EVENLY DIVIDED ON THE IDEA OF FORCED REGISTRATION.

GIVEN THAT DIVISION, PERHAPS IT MIGHT BE BEST TO TABLE THIS ACT FOR THE TIME BEING.

PERHAPS.

IN WHICH EVENT THAT RECORDING WOULD APPEAR TO BE VERY CONVENIENT TO YOUR ARGUMENT, MR. STARK.

WHICH OF COURSE RAISES THE OBVIOUS QUESTION--

--HOW DO WE KNOW IT IS AUTHENTIC?

I CAN ANSWER THAT, SENATOR.

I WAS THERE. I CAN VOUCH FOR ITS AUTHENTICITY.

AND THERE'S SOMETHING *ELSE* I'D LIKE TO SAY TO THIS COMMITTEE--

HE NEVER LEARNS...

--AND IT'S THIS...

...YOU'RE RIGHT.

IT *WOULD* BE SIMPLER, AND MORE LEGAL, IF GUYS LIKE ME REGISTERED. IF WE WERE REGULATED, LIKE THE AMA OR ANY OF THOSE OTHER INITIAL-GROUPS.

THE PROBLEM IS THAT AFTER REGISTRATION ALWAYS COMES REGULATION.

YOU'RE ALL GOOD GUYS. BUT IF YOU HAD TO START DECIDING WHAT SORTS OF THINGS SUPERS *SHOULD* GET INVOLVED WITH, THEN YOU START ELIMINATING THE THINGS THEY SHOULD *NOT* GET INVOLVED WITH.

IN YOUR WELL-MEANING OPINION.

BUT GUYS LIKE ME GET INVOLVED IN THINGS SOMETIMES BECAUSE NOBODY ELSE *WILL*...BECAUSE IT'S NOT IN THE RULE BOOK, OR IT'S POLITICALLY INCONVENIENT, OR IT'S TOO WEIRD, OR--

--OR SIMPLY BECAUSE NOBODY ELSE *CARES.*

THE GOVERNMENT, THE BIG CORPORATIONS, THE MONEY GUYS...THEY ALL HAVE PLENTY OF PEOPLE WILLING TO PUT IT ALL ON THE LINE TO DEFEND THEM.

BUT SOMEBODY ON THE EDGE, SOMEBODY IN TROUBLE...THE KIND OF GUY WISER MINDS WOULD SAY SHOULD BE LEFT TO SOLVE HIS *OWN* PROBLEMS...

...WHO DOES HE GO TO?

LOTS OF THE OTHER SUPER-GUYS LIVE IN SHADOWS BECAUSE WHAT THEY DO IS STUFF YOU'D NEVER, *EVER* WANT TO KNOW ABOUT... BECAUSE YOU'D NEVER SLEEP WELL AGAIN.

LEAVING THEM ALONE TO OPERATE AS THEY SEE FIT GIVES YOU DENIABILITY, AND LETS THEM DIVE IN WHERE LOGIC WOULD SAY "STAY AWAY."

SO MAYBE THE BEST SOLUTION WOULD BE A KIND OF GOOD SAMARITAN LAW, LIKE THEY HAVE FOR DRIVERS, WHERE YOU CAN PROTECT EVERYBODY WHEN ONE PERSON DIVES IN TO DO SOMETHING TO HELP--

--WHILE EVERYBODY ELSE JUST DRIVES PAST.

YOU MAKE SOME INTERESTING AND COMPELLING POINTS, SON--

I WASN'T FINISHED.

THANK YOU, SIR, I'M JUST--

YESSIR.

AS I SAID... INTERESTING POINTS.

BUT IF YOU WANT THEM TO GO ON THE *RECORD*, IF YOU WANT THEM TO BE *CONSIDERED*, YOU MUST REMOVE THE MASK, SIT IN THE WITNESS CHAIR, AND SWEAR TO YOUR TESTIMONY UNDER OATH.

MEANING THAT YOU WILL HAVE TO PROVIDE THIS COMMITTEE WITH YOUR FULL NAME AND PLACE OF RESIDENCE.

ARE YOU WILLING TO DO THAT, SON?

I CAN'T.

AND *THAT*, SON, IS EXACTLY *WHY* THIS LEGISLATION ISN'T GOING TO GO AWAY.

THIS IS A NATION OF *LAWS*, AND THOSE LAWS ARE MEANINGLESS WITHOUT THE ABILITY TO *ENFORCE* THEM *EQUALLY*.

YOU MAY BE ABOVE THE *GROUND*, SON, BUT YOU ARE NOT ABOVE THE *LAW*. THAT SUPER-POWER WE ALLOW TO NO ONE IN THIS REPUBLIC.

THE SENATE RECORDER IS INSTRUCTED TO STRIKE THE STATEMENTS OFFERED HERE FROM THE RECORD.

YES, SIR.

SO...I SHOULD GO, THEN.

I THINK THAT WOULD BE ADVISABLE.

"NOW, MR. STARK, IF WE CAN RETURN TO YOUR *SWORN* TESTIMONY..."

HEY, PETER.

HEY, BOSS.

LOOK, I WAS THINKING ABOUT HOW I MOUTHED OFF IN THERE, AND IF YOU WANT TO FIRE ME--

NO. YOU SPOKE YOUR MIND ABOUT SOMETHING IMPORTANT. REPUBLICS DIE WHEN PEOPLE STOP DOING THAT.

MAIN THING IS, REGARDLESS OF WHAT WAS ACTUALLY ALLOWED ON THE RECORD, WE GAVE THEM A LOT TO THINK ABOUT.

SO YOU THINK WE STOPPED THEM?

NO, BUT BARRING ANYTHING TO TURN PUBLIC OPINION AROUND, WE'VE MUDDIED THE WATERS ENOUGH TO SLOW THE PROCESS DOWN.

WE BUY A YEAR HERE, A YEAR THERE, AND SOONER OR LATER THESE THINGS DIE OF THEIR OWN WEIGHT.

GOOD... GOOD.

SO WHAT *ELSE* IS ON YOUR MIND?

I...IT'S NOTHING, I--

NOW YOU'RE GOING TO CLAM UP? WHERE WAS THAT IMPULSE EARLIER?

IT'S JUST--

--SOMETHING'S BEEN BOTHERING ME. I MEAN, NOBODY OUTSIDE THE SENATE COMMITTEE KNEW YOU WERE COMING IN YESTERDAY, EVEN THE REPORTERS DIDN'T KNOW.

BUT THE TITANIUM MAN KNEW. AND RIGHT BEFORE HE ATTACKED, YOU WERE IN A REAL HURRY TO GET AWAY FROM EVERY-BODY, ALMOST AS IF YOU--

AS IF WHAT, PETER?

NOTHING. I GUESS.

I WAS SO WORRIED EARLIER THAT I'D DAMAGED THIS PLACE. BEAUTIFUL, ISN'T IT?

YES, IT IS.

I'VE ALWAYS ADMIRED LINCOLN. WHEN THE SOUTH BEGAN GOING ITS OWN WAY, HE KNEW THAT TAKING A POSITION AGAINST THEM WOULD LEAD TO CIVIL WAR.

BUT HE DID IT ANYWAY. BECAUSE HE UNDERSTOOD SOME-THING...UNDERSTOOD IT MORE PERHAPS THAN ANYONE ELSE IN THAT TIME.

HE KNEW THAT A HOUSE DIVIDED AGAINST ITSELF CANNOT STAND... A NATION CANNOT BE DIVIDED AND SURVIVE.

UNDER HIS ADMINISTRATION, BROTHER HUNTED DOWN BROTHER, FRIEND TURNED AGAINST FRIEND. IT WAS TERRIBLE. IT WAS BLOODY.

IT WAS *NECESSARY.*

BECAUSE AT THE END, THE REPUBLIC HELD, AND THE NATION WAS RESTORED.

I SOMETIMES WONDER IF I WOULD HAVE HAD THE COURAGE TO DO AS HE DID.

YEAH, WELL, FORTUNATELY THAT WON'T BE NECESSARY, WHICH IS A GOOD THING--

--BECAUSE I DON'T THINK THE END OF THAT STORY WORKED OUT TOO WELL FOR MR. LINCOLN.

TONY...GIVEN HOW TITANIUM MAN'S SUDDEN APPEARANCE HELPED ENCOURAGE THE COMMITTEE TO CONSIDER THAT MAYBE REGISTRATION WASN'T IN OUR BEST NATIONAL INTEREST--

--I MEAN, YOU'D *TELL* ME IF YOU--

OF COURSE I WOULD, PETER...

"...OF COURSE I WOULD."

YOU HAVE THE MONEY?

RIGHT HERE, IN UNMARKED BILLS, AS YOUR AGENCY SPECIFIED.

MR. STARK ASKED ME TO TELL YOU THAT YOUR COOPERATION WAS BOTH APPRECIATED AND WELL-TIMED.

YES, WELL, YOU SHOULD HAVE TOLD ME THAT SPIDER-MAN WOULD BE THERE.

I WANTED YOU TO REACT HONESTLY.

YOU DID.

YES. I SPOKE THE TRUTH--

--IT WAS ALL THE TRUTH...WHAT HAS BECOME OF US IN RUSSIA...AND WHAT WILL BECOME OF YOU, VERY SOON, I THINK.

WHEN YOUR GOVERNMENT TURNS ON YOU...WHEN YOU ARE HUNTED AND DRIVEN OUT... I WONDER--

--HOW WILL YOU FEEL THE DAY YOU RUN ERRANDS FOR OTHER PEOPLE... FOR BRIEFCASES FILLED WITH MONEY?

SAY "MOOSE AND SQUIRREL." JUST ONCE.

AMERIKANSKI HUMOR.

BUT SOON, NOT SO FUNNY, YES?

"SOON, NOT SO FUNNY AT ALL."

YOU GONNA BE IN THE SHOWER MUCH LONGER, MJ?

JUST A FEW MINUTES.

GOOD...I CAN *NOT* SEEM TO KEEP MY EYES OPEN.

YOU'VE HAD A LONG DAY, PETER. THAT'S A LOT OF STRESS.

WHY DON'T YOU TURN ON THE NEWS AND ZONE OUT? THAT'LL PUT YOU TO SLEEP.

OKELY-DOKELY.

--WHERE THE YANKEES PULLED IT OUT AGAINST KANSAS CITY 6-5 IN THE BOTTOM OF THE TENTH.

CLICK!

IT WAS A TENSE BATTLE WITH TWO MEN ON BASE WHEN DEREK JETER HIT A GROUND-RULES DOUBLE THAT BROUGHT BOTH MEN HOME, AND--

--JUST A SECOND, WE'RE GOING TO--

IS THIS RIGHT?

DO WE HAVE CONFIRMATION?

TO OUR VIEWING AUDIENCE, WE'RE JUST GETTING CONFIRMATION...BUT ACCORDING TO THE A.P. THERE'S BEEN A DISASTER IN STAMFORD, CONNECTICUT--

--INITIAL REPORTS ARE INDICATING AT LEAST...AT LEAST SIX HUNDRED HAVE BEEN KILLED AND COUNTLESS MORE BADLY WOUNDED...

ACCORDING TO AUTHORITIES ON THE SCENE, THE PERSON RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL THIS DEVASTATION IS...

...IS THIS RIGHT?

WHO OR WHAT IS SPEEDBALL?